

10 a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said reading element is provided, and a surface of
said base apparatus which faces to said scanner apparatus in a case where said scanner
apparatus is mounted on said base apparatus,

15 and wherein said scanner apparatus includes a pick roller provided at a location
upstream of said second sheet transporting path as viewed in a sheet transporting direction and
includes feed rollers provided at locations downstream of said second sheet transporting path,
said first and second sheet transporting paths being provided along and adjacent to each other,
and wherein said scanner apparatus is so implemented as to be capable of operating as a hand
scanner in a case where said scanner apparatus is detached from said base apparatus.

Claim 8 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

8. An apparatus according to claim 7,

wherein said scanner apparatus has a protecting member, provided in a manner
projecting at a side of said surface of said scanner apparatus, protecting said pick roller in a case
where said scanner apparatus is used as a hand scanner.

Claim 9 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

9. An apparatus according to claim 8,

wherein said protecting member is provided at a location outside of a reading area of
said scanner unit.

Claim 10 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

5 10. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein an accommodating part
accommodating said protecting member is provided in the surface of said base apparatus facing
toward said protecting member.

Claim 19 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

19. An apparatus comprising:

a base unit including a part of a sheet transporting mechanism;

a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base unit and includes at
least the other part of said sheet transporting mechanism and a reading element;

5 a scanner mounting portion provided on said base unit and adapted to removably mount
said scanner apparatus on said base unit; and

an engaging portion provided on said scanner apparatus and adapted to engage said
scanner mounting portion,

10 wherein either said scanner mounting portion of said base unit or said engaging portion
of said scanner apparatus is a pivotal shaft for allowing said scanner apparatus to rotate
frontwards, while the other is in the form of a holding member for holding said pivotal shaft.

Claim 20 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

20. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said scanner apparatus is so
implemented as to be capable of operating as a hand scanner in a case where said scanner
apparatus is detached from said base unit.

Please amend claim 21 as follows:

B2 73 21. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a lock member locking said scanner apparatus in a state mounted on said base unit.

Claim 22 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

22. An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a rotation limiting stopper preventing said scanner apparatus from swinging excessively frontwards of said apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is attached to or detached from said base unit.

5 Claim 23 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

23. An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a deviation preventing stopper preventing said scanner apparatus from displacing upwardly of said apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base unit.

Please amend claim 24 as follows:

10 10 24. (Twice Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a base unit including a part of a sheet transporting mechanism;

B3 a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base unit and includes the other part of said sheet transporting mechanism and a reading element;

a scanner mounting portion provided on said base unit and adapted to removably mount
15 said scanner apparatus on said base unit; and

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an engaging portion provided on said scanner apparatus and adapted to engage said
scanner mounting portion,

wherein a sheet guide provided on said scanner apparatus and a sheet guide provided
on said base unit are faced to each other, so that a space defined between said two sheet guides
20 becomes gradually narrower toward a sheet withdrawal port, and offset member is provided for
at least one of said two sheet guides for stepwise limiting moving of a sheet toward said sheet
withdrawal port.

Claim 25 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

25. An apparatus according to claim 24,

wherein said scanner apparatus is so implemented as to be capable of operating as a
hand scanner in a case where said scanner apparatus is detached from said base unit.

Claim 34 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

34. An apparatus, comprising:

a base apparatus which includes a first sheet transporting path extending substantially
vertically and performs a first processing for a sheet traveling along said first sheet transporting
path; and

5 a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base apparatus and

includes a reading element, wherein a second sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically is defined by a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said reading element is provided, and a surface of said base apparatus which faces toward said scanner apparatus when said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base apparatus, said first and second sheet transporting paths being provided along and adjacent to each other, and whereby said scanner apparatus may be detached from said base apparatus so as to operate as a hand scanner.

Claim 35 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

35. An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said scanner apparatus includes at least one pick roller provided on a surface where said reading element is provided, and a protecting member projecting at a side of said surface and protecting said pick roller when said scanner apparatus is used as a hand scanner.

Claim 36 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

36. An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said protecting member is provided at a location outside of a reading area of said scanner apparatus.

Claim 37 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

37. An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said base apparatus includes a first sheet guide provided at a location upstream of said second sheet transporting path, and said scanner apparatus includes a second sheet guide provided at a location upstream of said second

sheet transporting path, and wherein said first and second sheet guides face each other in a manner that a space between said first and second sheet guides gradually narrows toward said second sheet transporting path in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base apparatus.

Please amend claim 38 as follows:

38. (Once Amended) A multiple function apparatus, comprising:

a first transporting guide including a straight guide and a deflecting guide, said straight guide being formed so as to transport a first sheet straight and is open at one end, and said deflecting guide being formed adjacent to said straight guide at a side opposite said one end so as to transport a first sheet in a direction different from a direction of transport effected by said straight guide;

a second transporting guide provided along said first transporting guide and opposite a direction of deflection effected by said deflecting guide with respect to said straight guide, being provided in a manner that a distance to said deflecting guide becomes longer than that of said straight guide, and being formed so as to transport a second sheet;

a first apparatus provided at said straight guide, and performing processing for said first sheet in a case where said first sheet is transported along said straight guide; and

a second apparatus provided in a space defined by said deflecting guide and a portion of said second transporting guide and performing processing for a sheet transported along said second transporting guide, said portion facing toward said deflecting guide.

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wherein said deflecting guide is disposed over said second apparatus.

Claim 39 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

39. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said first apparatus is provided opposite of said second transporting guide with respect to said straight guide.

Claim 40 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

5 40. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38, wherein a direction of transport of said first sheet effected by said straight guide and a direction of transport of said second sheet effected by a portion of said second transporting guide which faces to said straight guide form an angle smaller than 90 degrees with the vertical direction in a case where said multiple function apparatus is provided for use.

Claim 41 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

41. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38, further comprising:

a first transporting mechanism transporting said first sheet from said straight guide of said first transporting guide toward said deflecting guide;

5 a second transporting mechanism transporting said second sheet by said second transporting guide in a manner that said second sheet is transported in substantially a same direction as said first sheet;

a first sheet delivery port for delivery of said first sheet from said multiple function

apparatus, said first delivery port being provided at a location downstream of said deflecting guide as viewed in a direction of transport of said first sheet; and

10 a second sheet delivery port for delivery of said second sheet from said multiple function apparatus, said second sheet delivery port being provided at a location downstream of said second transporting guide as viewed in a direction of transport of said second sheet,

wherein said first and second sheet delivery ports are provided at a same side of said multiple function apparatus.

Please amend claim 42 as follows:

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42. (Once Amended) A multiple function apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said first transporting guide is provided closer to the front side of said multiple function apparatus than is said second transporting guide, said first apparatus is a scanner, said second apparatus is [a printer] an image forming apparatus, and said second transporting guide includes a sheet accommodating part accommodating a plurality of sheets to be fed to said second transporting guide, said sheet accommodating part being provided at a location upstream of said second transporting guide as viewed in said sheet transporting direction.

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[Please amend claim 42 as follows:]

10 43. (Once Amended) A multiple function apparatus according to claim 42, wherein a portion of said second transporting guide which faces to said deflecting guide serves as a part of a cover of said multiple function apparatus and covers said [printer] image forming

apparatus.

[Please amend claim 44 as follows:]

44. (Once Amended) A multiple function apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the portion of said second transporting guide which faces to said deflecting guide is movable, so that said [printer] image forming apparatus can be exposed.

Claim 45 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

45. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said first apparatus and said second apparatus are provided in such a positional relation as to overlap each other in the substantially vertical direction in a case where said multiple function apparatus is installed.

Please amend claim 46 as follows:

46. (Once Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

base unit;

a scanner apparatus which includes a reading element and can be removably mounted on said base unit;

a scanner mounting portion provided on said base unit and adapted to removably mount said scanner apparatus on said base unit; and

an engaging portion provided on said scanner apparatus and adapted to engage said scanner mounting portion,

wherein a sheet transporting [mechanism] path is defined by a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said reading element is provided, and a surface of said base unit which faces to said scanner apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base unit, and said engaging portion and said scanner mounting portion hold said scanner apparatus in a manner that said scanner apparatus can be rotatable [frontward of said apparatus] to a direction that said sheet transporting path is open.

[Please amend claim 47 as follows:]

25 ~~47~~. (Once Amended) An apparatus according to claim 46,

wherein a sheet transporting direction of said sheet transporting [mechanism] path is substantially vertical, and said engaging portion and said scanner mounting portion hold said scanner apparatus such that said scanner apparatus can rotate about a lower portion thereof in a state mounted on said base unit.

Claim 48 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

48. An apparatus according to claim 46, further comprising:

a lock member locking said scanner apparatus in a state mounted on said base unit.

Claim 49 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

49. An apparatus according to claim 46, further comprising:

a rotation limiting stopper preventing said scanner apparatus from swinging excessively.

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Please amend claim 50 as follows:

B7 28/10 (Once Amended) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said base unit is [a printer] an image forming apparatus.

Claim 51 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

5 51. An apparatus, comprising:

a base unit including a part of a sheet transporting mechanism;

a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base unit and includes the other part of said sheet transporting mechanism and a reading element;

10 a scanner mounting portion provided on said base unit and adapted to removably mount said scanner apparatus on said base unit; and

an engaging portion provided on said scanner apparatus and adapted to engage said scanner mounting portion,

15 wherein a sheet guide provided on said scanner apparatus and a sheet guide provided on said base unit are faced to each other, so that a space defined between said sheet guides becomes gradually narrower toward a sheet withdrawal port.

Claim 52 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

52. An apparatus, comprising:

a base apparatus with;

a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base apparatus and

includes a reading element;

5 a sheet transporting path defined by a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said reading element is provided, and a surface of said base apparatus which faces toward said reading element in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base apparatus; and a cover of said base apparatus guiding a sheet delivered from said sheet transporting path.

Claim 53 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

53. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said cover can be opened and closed.

Claim 54 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

54. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said cover can be removed.

Please amend claim 55 as follows:

55. (Once Amended) An apparatus according to claim 52,
wherein said base apparatus is [a printer] an image forming apparatus, and said cover
serves as a sheet guide for said [printer] image forming apparatus.

[Please amend claim 56 as follows:]

56. (Once Amended) An apparatus according to claim 52,
wherein said base apparatus is [a printer] an image forming apparatus, and a sheet guide

of a sheet delivery portion of said [printer] image forming apparatus and a sheet guide of a sheet delivery portion of said scanner apparatus are provided adjacent to each other.

[Please amend claim 57 as follows:]

30 57 (Once Amended) An apparatus according to claim 52, 31

wherein said base apparatus is [a printer] an image forming apparatus, and a sheet guide of a sheet feeding portion of said [printer] image forming apparatus and a sheet guide of a sheet feeding portion of said scanner apparatus are provided adjacent to each other.

38 [Please amend claim 58 as follows:]

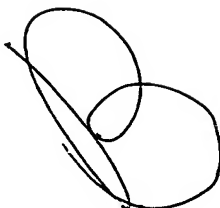
39 58 (Once Amended) An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said base apparatus is [a printer] an image forming apparatus, and a sheet feeding portion of said scanner apparatus is provided frontward with respect to a sheet feeding portion of said [printer] image forming apparatus.

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[Please amend claim 59 as follows:]

50 59. (Once Amended) A multiple-function apparatus, comprising:

10 [a printer] an image forming apparatus [of an automatic sheet feeding type and] including a sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically; and a scanner apparatus of an automatic sheet feeding type and including a sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically,



wherein said sheet transporting paths of said scanner apparatus and [printer] said image forming apparatus are provided adjacent to each other, and a sheet guide provided at least at a part of said sheet transporting path of said scanner apparatus serves as a cover for said [printer] image forming apparatus.

[Please amend claim 60 as follows:]

60. (Once Amended) A multiple-function apparatus according to claim 59, wherein said scanner apparatus is removably mounted on said [printer] image forming apparatus, and said scanner apparatus is so implemented as to be capable of operating as a hand scanner in a case where said scanner apparatus is detached from said [printer] image forming apparatus.

Please add the following new claim:

61. An apparatus according to claim 46,

wherein said scanner apparatus includes at least one roller or a plurality of rollers for sheet transportation, a center of rotation of said scanner apparatus being located at a downstream side, with regard to a direction of sheet transportation of said at least one roller or a plurality of rollers.